(d) The Government has taken following measures to accelerate production :

Measures announced in Union Budget 2003-04:

- The Government has announced several measures for improving infrastructure. These measures are targeted at modernizing and developing rail, road, airport, port and power sectors.
- The budget has sought to bolster the manufacturing sector by providing excise and customs duty reductions. This would strengthen the recovery in the manufacturing sector.
- For the textile industry, the budget has made proposals on excise duty cuts to provide the industry an incentive to modernize while making garments cheaper for retail buyers.
- Customs duty on textile machinery and parts reduced from 25% to 5% to encourage modernisation.
- Tax holiday extended for R&D efforts.
- Proposals relating to personal income tax such as removal of surcharge, rebates on education expenses and no levy of additional taxes would mean rise in personal disposable income of consumers, which imply further increase in demand.

Other measures:

- To improve operating environment of the industry and to boost its competitiveness, the Government has enacted several laws, which include the Competition Act and amendments to SEBI Act.
- The RBI has cut Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) to 4.5 per cent from 4.75 per cent, a move that will ease the liquidity position further.
- The draft Electricity Bill has been introduced in Parliament for facilitating comprehensive power sector reforms.

Delhi A business friendly city

4498. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to the study conducted by Bibek Debroy and Indicus Analytics for CII, Delhi has emerged as number one city in the ranking of business friendly places among 36 cities in the country;

(b) the factors taken into consideration for the ranking; and

(c) the manner in which Government propose to make use of this study?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO) : (a) to (c) The report, also available on the website of the Confederation of Indian Industry (www. ciionline.org) has attempted to rank 36 cities in the country based on the criteria relating to communication, finance, transport, professional education, tourism (leisure & business), relative growth etc., for which good quality data was made available. Three to five variables were used for each of the selected criteria. On the basis of analysis attempted in the report, Delhi has been ranked number one as per the overall index ranking. The information contained in the report can be utilized by organisations/individuals in making business and other decisions.

Industrial development of Jodhpur-Pali sector

4499. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMAD KHAN (DURRU) : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of prospect of the setting up of new industrial units in Jodhpur-Pali sector after the availability of cheap and non-stop supply of Natural Gas through pipelines between Jodhpur and Kota;

(b) whether Government have drawn the blueprint for the prospective industrial development in this sector; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO) : (a) to (c) In order to supply gas within Rajasthan, a new pipeline network is being planned by Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL). The work for laying gas pipelines between Kota and Jodhpur will be taken up after the completion of the detailed feasibility report for the project. It is expected that the feasibility report for the project would be completed by April 2004.

Under the liberalised industrial policy regime, prospect of setting up of industries depends upon the commercial perception of entrepreneurs regarding availability of supportive infrastructure and overall business environment.